Production of essential drugs

967. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to answer to the Unstarred Question No. 615 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 2nd March, 1987 and state;

(a) the specific measures proposed to be taken by Government to discourage the production of non-essential and useless medicines;

(b) whether his Ministry has proposed lower mark up on non-essential medicines;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether it is also a fact that no obligatory provision has been proposed under new drug policy to produce essential medicines;

(e) whether it is also a fact that such a provision was available under Drug Policy, 1978;

(f) if so, what are the details thereof;

(g) whether it is also a fact that production of non-essential medicines which fall under exempted category went up by four times within five years whereas production of essential medicines fell half;

(h) if so, what was the sale turn over of essential medicines falling under categories I and II as well as non-essential medicines or exempted and others in 1980 and 1986; and

(i) what was the percentage increase or decrease in each case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH): (a) to (f) The new measures announced recently aim at encouraging the production of essential drugs and are based on the experience gained in the implementation of the 1978 drug policy. There was no obligatory provision to produce essential drugs in the 1978 policy nor is it imposed now. However, production of essential drugs has been encouraged.

(g) to (i) No such study has been made by the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals.

Price decontrolled medicines

968. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 620 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 2nd March, 1987 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that apart from exorbitent price increase of price decontrol medicines the production of these medicines have also gone up disproportionately;

(b) if so, what was the total sales turnover of formulations in 1980 and 1986;

(c) what was the sales turnover of price controlled formulations as well as of price decontrolled ones separately during 1980 and 1986;

(d) what was the percentage increase or decrease in production in each case;

(e) whether it is also a fact that his ministry is proposing to expand the price decontrol basket;

(f) whether it is also a fact that his Ministry has abolished Drugs Equalisation Fund Account, overall profitability Control on Drug Industry as well as obligatory provision of production of 20 per cent of sales turnover of essential medicines; and

(g) if so, how under these circumstances, the national objective of abundant availability of medicines at reasonable prices will be achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH): (a) to (d) Production of formulations is not monitored. Required details are, therefore, not available.

(e) to (g) Measure announced by the Government aim at stimulating production of drugs and formulations which are

essential to the needs of large majority of the people of the country; at making the price control less cumbersome but more effective by reducing the span of control and at ensuring a reasonable return to the producers of essential drugs, while at the same time restricting undue increase in their price. With a view to encourage production of drugs which are more essential to the needs of the country, incentives, other than the MAPE would also be considered. It is also proposed to strictly monitor the prices of drugs of decontrolled category and to develop an effective monitoring mechanism for this purpose with a view to bringing any drug in decontrolled category within the ambit of control at any point of time, should it be considered necessary to do so.

Meeting of Expert Committee

969. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 165 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 9th March, 1987 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Expert Committee has decided to meet the associations of the Drug Industry and Medical Profession before finalisation of their recommendations for inclusion of drugs under Category II;

(b) if so, how many meetings in this regard have been held till date;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Committee recently held a meeting at Bombay;

(d) if so, what are the names of the associations of Industry, Trade, Consumer and Medical Profession with whom the aforesaid meeting was held;

(e) whether it is also a fact the none of the three Medical experts were present in the meeting; and

(f) if so, what were the reasons therefor and what purpose would be served without the presence of Medical experts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Committee met the following in this regard at Bombay on 31st March and 1st April, 1987:

(i) Indian Drug Manufacturers' Association

(ii) Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India

(iii) Indian Medical Association

(iv) Indian Pharmaceutical Association

(v) Association for Consumers Action on Safety and Health

(vi) Arogya Mitra Mandal

(vii) Foundation for Research in Community Health.

(e) and (f) Two nominees of the Ministry of Health on the Committee could not attend the meeting due to last minute administrative difficulties. Another Member, Prof. Ramalingaswamy could not attend the meeting since he was abroad on a foreign assignment.

Expert committee for identification of drugs

970. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has appointed an expert committee to identify drugs for price control under category II of the proposed Drugs Price Control Order;

(b) if so, how many pharmacologists and medical experts have been taken in the committee alongwith their names and institutions to which each is attached;

(c) whether it is a fact that certain experts of other fields have been taken in the committee; if so, what are the names of those members;